

Special Branch Registry

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

File No. Y.O.



SUBJECT

Political activities of Russians in Sinai.

Names connected:

V. F. Isquardt.

L. Hauer

D. A. Gundersen.

Shanghai Municipal Police.

3233
19/2/20

CENTRAL POLICE

Station.

18th February, 1920.

191

REPORT ON D. A. Lundem.

Made by D. S. I. Givens

Forwarded by

Chief Detective Officer.

Sir,

Further inquiries go to show that Lundem, who is a Jew and well known to the British Authorities in Vladivostock, organized the Anglo-Russian Society in that port in 1917, and was elected its first president. When he left that society about a year later owing to differences with other members, he worked for the Vladivostock Jewish Association. A ⁺except from the North China Daily News giving a report on an interview which a reporter of that paper ^{had with Lundem} last July is attached.

Ans
18/2

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D. S. I.

C. D. O.

D. S. I.

N. S. D. N. 16:7:1919.

THE NEWS

BREST, LITOVSK NO. 2.

THE THREAT FROM RUSSIA'S DESPERATION.

KOLTCHAK'S FEEBLE HOLD.

A RUSSIAN'S ACCOUNT OF THINGS THE ALLIES HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD.

Mr. D. A. Lunden, a Russian who is on his way to Washington and London to make representations with reference to the situation in Siberia, is at present in Shanghai. A native of Central Russia, he is 28 years of age, and like many of his countrymen is an expert linguist, talking, in addition to his native tongue, English, French, Italian and German. He studied mathematics in the University of Liège, and has also graduated at King's College, London. While there he organized an Anglo-Russian Society at the University. Following the revolution in 1917 he went to Petrograd where he stayed for a time, meeting most of the eminent politicians there, and thereafter went to Vladivostok, where he represented "The Times." At that time he organized an Anglo-Russian Society there, his object being to bring about a real alliance between England and Russia.

As stated, he is now on his way to the United States and England in connexion with the political state of Russia, and to a representative of the "North-China Daily News" he yesterday gave his views upon the condition of affairs in his country.

Fighting The Bolsheviks.

Last year, said Mr. Lunden, General Knox, as representative of the British Military Mission, came to Siberia, where there was a kind of government known as the Siberian Government. It is sufficient to say that this government was in close contact with the Zemstvo, which, as you know, are a union of towns and even villages acting on the basis of autonomy. While I admit that those who were in the Siberian Government were too weak to rule and too weak to fight the Bolsheviks, their intentions were honest and, I should say, correct. At that time many members of the Constituent Assembly had a conference in Ufa, and they formed the well-known Directorate at the head of which was the famous Avksientiev, the social revolutionist, who was certainly opposed to Bolshevism in any shape or form. Although many people say that this Directorate was too weak to fight the Bolsheviks, I am not of that opinion. Suppose at the beginning this organization was weak, it was extremely powerful to inspire the population to take up arms against the Bolsheviks for the following reason. First of all it was prepared and ready to act in close contact with the Zemstvo. These institu-

tions are extremely popular in Russia, and are trusted by the greatest majority of the populace. I do not intend to give you any idea of the numbers which stand for the Zemstvo, but I think it will be sufficient to tell you that the great bulk of the peasants do stand for them, and, as we know, the peasants are the propelling force in Russia, although very nearly in a latent state. Although that organization from a military or diplomatic point of view was weak—perhaps I would admit that—it was a tremendous force which could collect all the real forces of Russia, including the peasants, inspire them, and show them the nearest hope to get a real constitutional assembly where the people would be represented and would shape the real future of Russia. Of course, it would come out a republic.

If this organization, the Directorate, had had the full support of the Allies, their real sympathy and their real help economically and in sending munitions, without sending a single foreign soldier to Russia, it would certainly have succeeded in inspiring the populace to form an army and march on Moscow, overthrowing the dictatorship of this one class, the Bolsheviks, and calling a Russian parliament together.

Enter the Bureaucrats.

But let us see what happened at this time. You must remember that after the Revolution a great number of the bureaucrats, including civilians and military men, did not like the word "freedom" at all. Not because it was a danger to the Russian people, but it really spelt failure and destruction to their dark ambitions of the old days of the Tsar's régime. What was the result? They had to leave Central Russia, where more or less the socialists were in power, and fly to Siberia, to the Crimea and some other places outside the centre of European Russia. Some perhaps, especially the officers, were terrorized by the Bolsheviks.

These people, being outside the heart of Russia, became inspired, I should say, with vengeance, the French *vendéens*. Being blinded by that idea, they never considered the object of having Russia a free country, and they organized themselves to fight those whom they called their enemies, not declaring to the Russian people what would happen in case they succeeded. As every bureaucrat is, these people were terrible cowards, and they did not dare to take up arms in sup-

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port of these came until the Allies came to Russia. Then they had to try to form some sort of military organization.

Here is another item of Russian politics and concerning Russia generally. When the Allies came to Russia they did not come in contact with the Zemstvos. They did not try, or perhaps they did not understand how to do it—to mix with the people, find out the real opinion of the people and on such an opinion base their policy of intervention. They came in contact with the militarists, and instead of supporting Avksentiev, or any body in contact with the Zemstvos.

simply decided to have a kind of military dictatorship.

Koltchak's Dictatorship.

I do not attempt to say that the Allies did it because they liked it. I presume they did not understand the situation; that is more likely. Since they decided to have a military dictatorship, whom could they choose to support? The only man was Koltchak, and that for this reason, that Koltchak, who was a Vice-Admiral in the Black Sea, became more or less popular during the Revolution. Koltchak is a very good patriot and honest, but Koltchak is very weak. I think his health is also very bad, and he is a very nervous person. It stands to reason that as soon as a naval or military man became head of the government, all the militarists collected round him, and became very powerful in the government's policy.

I am not going to discuss how the army was formed, but at the beginning, especially, Koltchak's army was successful. They were approaching Kazan and Samara—already in the centre of European Russia. At that moment the situation was worse than ever for the following reason. The militarists became cocksure that they would take Moscow; they started to suppose that their policy was the right one, and they had some proof, for they had their army near Kazan, near Samara. At that moment what they had really need of was to have all the sympathy of the Russian people. But they forgot about the Constituent Assembly, they arrested many people of the Zemstvos, and many really honest and true sons of Russia have been compelled to leave the country because they stood more or less for the real principle of the Russian people. Well, as soon as the Russians began to realize that this organization or so-called government of Koltchak's more or less resembled the old conditions of serfdom, they turned their backs upon it. At that very moment the Allies had a very real need of information, but they were always misinformed. As far back as April 26 I pointed out here in Shanghai, when Koltchak was already near Samara and Kazan, that the situation was still worse, but no one paid the slightest attention to my words. The government had forgotten to conquer the sympathies of the people, they forgot to speak of the rights of the people.

Why Koltchak Must Fail.

Even supposing that Koltchak stands for the principles of freedom, at that time he had become too weak to oppose his companions. If he had opposed them, it meant to say it would be almost a victory

for the Bolsheviks. I am a mathematician, and I consider things from a logical and psychological point of view. You can never plant a tree with the roots in the air; they must be in the soil. And the government of Koltchak was exactly the same thing, the roots were in the air instead of in the soil. Unless a man gives a programme of what he wishes to do for the Russian people, he will fail even if he succeeds temporarily in taking Moscow. Those who go with the people, who go with the Zemstvos, will certainly succeed in overthrowing any tyranny, be it from the right or left. For the present I think that gives the real reason why Koltchak is unsuccessful—and of course he is going to be more unsuccessful in the very near future, because by giving up Ufa and Perm, which are the real industrial centres in the Urals, where they make munitions and artillery, it seems to me that his forces must be disorganized. I personally do not believe for a second that he will succeed in keeping Omsk, and the very near future will show it.

Lotteries and Race Courses.

I admit that for non-Russian people to understand Russia you require much more information than I give you just now. But I do say this: whenever I open an English paper here, I do not think it would be a very rude word to say, I am disgusted. I find two or three columns of lotteries and baseball and race courses, but not a single attempt is made by the Press to study the situation in Russia. Do you realize how important it is? Do you know that if Russia is in desperation for another few months the peace with Germany will become Brest-Litovsk No. 2. My advice is that the Press should pay the closest attention to Russian politics, and not jump to conclusions. For instance one or two papers here in Shanghai used to write in not many lines on the following subject:—Koltchak is going to save Russia. Koltchak is going to become the head of the government, and will perhaps succeed in taking Moscow and so on. These people based their theories on some very ordinary information, but you know we cannot study a thing from a psychological point of view on an ordinary telegram. The foreign correspondents in Russia, I think, write very bad despatches to the English and American Press. Eighty per cent. of them are occupied telling stories about Russia, and they do not give the situation. That is why the situation is misunderstood.

Bolshevism in Siberia.

All the foreign correspondents wrote that Bolshevism is finished in Siberia: I wrote that it is not. The reason is that I came in contact with the people, and they did not, and in consequence they had to collect their information from second-hand sources. The result is waste of time, waste of energy, and waste of life, not only Russian but Allied.

Do not make the fatal mistake that this giant is going to die, that it can be cut to pieces. Except the Poles and Finns and perhaps the Estonians, all nationalities stand for a united Russia. Even the Ukrainians will ultimately join with Russia, for they are Russians, they are Slavs.

Shanghai Municipal Police.

C. I. D.

I. O. REG

No. 3233
Date 12/2/20

CENTRAL POLICE

Station.

17th February, 1920.

191

REPORT ON Nationality of D. A. Lunden.

Made by D. S. I. Givens Forwarded by Chief Detective Officer

Sir,

There appears to be good reason to believe that D. A. Lunden is a Russian subject. Mr. Tarasoff of the Union of Siberian Co-Operative Companies with whom Lunden lives at No. 133 Dixwell Road, states that the latter is Russian, and other people with whom he has been in contact corroborate this statement.

Lunden, who is a B. Sc. of London University, was once the "Times" correspondent at Vladivostock. He is on intimate terms with Miss Leda Yakovlevna, a typist, who lives at No. 16A East Seward Road, and his description is as follows : below medium height, about 35 years old, wears pinc-nez glasses, clean shaven, front portion of head bald, smart and well educated.

Efforts are now being made to confirm the information that Lunden is Russian.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D. S. I.

C. D. O.

Shanghai Municipal Police.

C. I. D.
L. 3234
No. 3234
Date 2/2/20

CENTRAL POLICE

Station.

5th, February, 1920

191

REPORT ON Political Activities of Russians in Shanghai

Made by D. S. I. Givens Forwarded by Chief Detective Officer.

Sir,

A group of local Russians, who call themselves Social Democrats, are planning the formation of a society of all democratic Russians in Shanghai who will elect a committee to look after their interests. It is proposed that this committee will take over the functions of the Consul General for Russia until such time as the new government in Siberia can nominate a man for this post.

The people advocating the dismissal of the present Consul General for Russia allege that a representative of the Koltchak Government, who was recently in Shanghai, had Tls. 500,000.00 of Government funds in the Russo-Asiatic Bank, and they say that the Russian Minister and Consular officials in China are conferring with a view to finding means to enrich themselves from public funds.

The scheme to hold a public meeting to protest against Japanese intervention in Siberia originated with the group of Russians above mentioned. Although they would now seem to have given up hope of being able to hold the meeting in the Settlement, they have not yet abandoned the idea, and it is reported that the provisional committee, of which A. F. Agareff is President, and L. Hassner is treasurer, will hold a meeting in the Russian Employment Bureau, American (Naval) Y. M. C. A., Avenue Edward VII [this evening] when plans to hold the meeting in Chinese territory will be discussed. One of the Russians on the provisional committee states that a number of influential

See No.
3234.

Shanghai Municipal Police.

C. I. D.

9-7-22

20-7-22

Date

Station.

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REPORT ON

Made by

Forwarded by

Chinese will join them in the anti-Japanese protest.

These Chinese include Dr. Sun Yat Sen, Dr. F. T. Tong of the Commercial Federation and prominent members of the World's Chinese Students' Federation and Students' Union. George Sokolsky is acting as intermediary between the Russians and Chinese. A man named "Lundor" is also assisting in this matter.

A. F. Agareff is on the staff of the Russian newspaper called Shanghai Life. L. Hasser, who resides in the old Austrian Consulate on Avenue Road, is employed in "Lury" Bros.

The above information has reached me through a fairly reliable source.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. D. O.

D. S. I.